

## 2.1 Kathy Mick

We use this to help us set our priorities.

**File Code:** 1500**Date:** JUN 19 2015**Route To:****Subject:** Forest Service Integrated Strategy for Youth**To:** Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director

All across the Forest Service, dedicated and passionate employees reach out to engage youth in compelling, creative and effective ways. Whether through classroom visits, hosting a National Fishing Day event, leading a Youth Conservation Corps program, or providing teacher training; we reach more than four million Americans each year with education and outreach efforts. Through this outreach, we help build personal connections with our public lands and help nurture the next generation of conservation stewards.

Yet, as far-reaching and as impactful as these efforts are, they are sometimes not aligned with Forest Service priorities or educational standards are not connected with other Forest Service or partner outreach efforts and are not sustainably supported by Forest Service funding or staff resources.

While we accomplish much, an overarching, comprehensive youth strategy will lead us to achieve much more. During the last year, the Youth Alliance—the team of Washington Office directors involved in youth outreach—diligently worked to craft the Integrated Strategy for Youth (ISY). Building on our past accomplishments, and integrating field input and advice, the ISY will guide our youth engagement efforts. It articulates our guiding principles and establishes five strategic goals that can be summarized as:

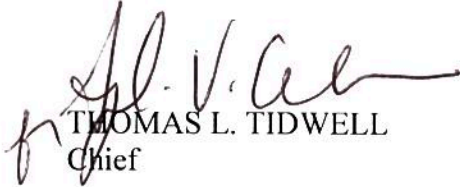
- Strengthen partnerships;
- Promote conservation service;
- Provide conservation education;
- Build lifelong connections with nature; and,
- Build our internal capacity for youth engagement.

The ISY is a living document, and during the coming year, the Youth Alliance will work to develop the next key steps to more fully implement our youth engagement vision. I encourage you to engage in this effort and to share the strategy broadly with your employees. Throughout the coming months, there will be opportunities to learn more about the strategy and help shape the actions that will truly move our mission-critical youth engagement efforts forward.

If you have questions about the enclosed ISY or would like to play an active role in these next



steps, please contact Steve Lohr, 2015 Youth Alliance Lead and Director of the National Partnership Office at [slohr@fs.fed.us](mailto:slohr@fs.fed.us) or 202-205-1072. Again, thank you for your commitment to nurturing the next generation of conservationists.



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